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Rabbi

Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal believes there are at least 500 Nazi war criminals living serenely in the United States, a spokesman said Tuesday.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center of Los Angeles, which he describes as the largest holocaust center in the United States, said allegations that Klaus Barbie, a convicted war criminal, had ties with U. S. intelligence proved the need for a broad investigation in this country.

Barbie was recently extradited from Bolivia to France.

Hier said the Barbie case showed the wisdom of the U. S. Justice Department's creation of a special war crimes branch, but called for a broadening of its operations to examine the possibility that many Nazi war criminals slipped into this country, possibly with government collusion.

"Any collusion between the CIA or other government agencies and suspected Nazi war criminals should be made a matter of public record," he said.

Hier was in San Diego to promote the film "Genocide," the 1982 Academy Award-winning documentary, which was produced by the center.